

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the Application:

Listing of the Claims:

[cl001] 1. (currently amended): A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:
an inflatable bladder, said inflatable bladder being capable of being inflated to a variety of levels by placing gas therein,
a resilient material covering both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,
wherein said combination of bladder and covering is symmetrical top to bottom so that it can be turned over for use on either side,
wherein the pillow may be adjusted from a fully flat configuration to a fully contoured configuration by inflating said bladder,
wherein said bladder may be inflated in discrete increments by use of a pump, and
wherein said resilient material is overlaid with another padding material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam rubber, fiber batting, buckling elastomers, and a resilient material consisting of discontinuous pieces of flexible material joined together by low durometer, high elongation elastomeric material[.], and
a padding layer covering at least a portion of said resilient material including a yieldable cushioning element having a flexible, resilient, gel cushioning media having shape memory and being substantially solid and non-flowable at temperatures below 130 degrees Fahrenheit,
wherein the cushioning element includes a quantity of gel cushioning media formed to have a top, a bottom, and an outer periphery, said cushioning media being compressible so that it will deform under the compressive force of a cushioned object,
a plurality of hollow columns formed in said cushioning media, each of said columns having a longitudinal axis along its length, each of said columns having a column wall which defines a column interior, and each of said columns having two ends,
each of said column ends being positioned at two different points of said column axis,
at least one of said columns being positioned generally parallel to the direction of a compressive

force exerted on the cushioning element by a cushioned object, at least one of said column walls being capable of buckling beneath a protuberance.

[cl002] 2. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 1 further comprising a second inflatable bladder.

[cl003] 3. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

[cl004] 4. (currently amended): A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:
an inflatable bladder,
a resilient material covering both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,
wherein said resilient material has top/bottom symmetry so that the pillow can be turned over for use on either side,
wherein said bladder may be inflated and deflated to adjust contour of the pillow from nearly flat to fully contoured,
wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable in discrete increments by inflating said bladder in discrete increments[.], and
a padding layer covering at least a portion of said resilient material covering including a yieldable cushioning element having a flexible, resilient, gel cushioning media having shape memory and being substantially solid and non-flowable at temperatures below 130 degrees Fahrenheit,

wherein the cushioning element includes a quantity of gel cushioning media formed to have a top, a bottom, and an outer periphery, said cushioning media being compressible so that it will deform under the compressive force of a cushioned object,

a plurality of hollow columns formed in said cushioning media, each of said columns having a longitudinal axis along its length, each of said columns having a column wall which defines a column interior, and each of said columns having two ends,
each of said column ends being positioned at two different points of said column axis,
at least one of said columns being positioned generally parallel to the direction of a compressive force exerted on the cushioning element by a cushioned object, at least one of said column walls being capable of buckling beneath a protuberance.

[c1005] 5. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 4 further comprising a second inflatable bladder which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

[c1006] 6. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 4 further comprising:
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

[c1007] 7. (currently amended): A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:
a bladder that may be inflated by placement of a gas therein, ~~and~~
a resilient material ~~covering~~ overlaying both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material covering being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,
wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable from nearly flat to fully contoured by inflation of said bladder, ~~and~~
wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable in discrete increments[.], and

a padding layer covering at least a portion of said resilient material covering including a yieldable cushioning element having a flexible, resilient, gel cushioning media having shape memory and being substantially solid and non-flowable at temperatures below 130 degrees Fahrenheit,

wherein the cushioning element includes a quantity of gel cushioning media formed to have a top, a bottom, and an outer periphery, said cushioning media being compressible so that it will deform under the compressive force of a cushioned object,

a plurality of hollow columns formed in said cushioning media, each of said columns having a longitudinal axis along its length, each of said columns having a column wall which defines a column interior, and each of said columns having two ends,

each of said column ends being positioned at two different points of said column axis, at least one of said columns being positioned generally parallel to the direction of a compressive force exerted on the cushioning element by a cushioned object, at least one of said column walls being capable of buckling beneath a protuberance.

[cl008] 8. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 7 further comprising a second inflatable bladder which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

[cl009] 9. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 7 further comprising
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

[cl010] 10. (currently amended): A pillow as recited in claim 7 wherein said resilient material ~~covering~~ is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam rubber, fiber batting, buckling elastomers, and a resilient material that includes

discontinuous pieces of flexible material joined together by low-durometer, high elongation elastomeric material.

[cl011] 11. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand
said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to
permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape
therefrom.